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The Aruban "cunukero"



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## Birds of Aruba



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## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

SUNDAY:  
MARRYBELL MADURO  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:  
ANGELA FLORES  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:  
JEAN PAUL  
SAXOPHONIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:  
EDDIE KROON  
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm  
MAILLEYN ALVARADO  
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm  
KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

THURSDAY:  
MARRYBELL MADURO  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:  
RICKY THOMAS  
GUITARIST  
7:00 - 9:00pm

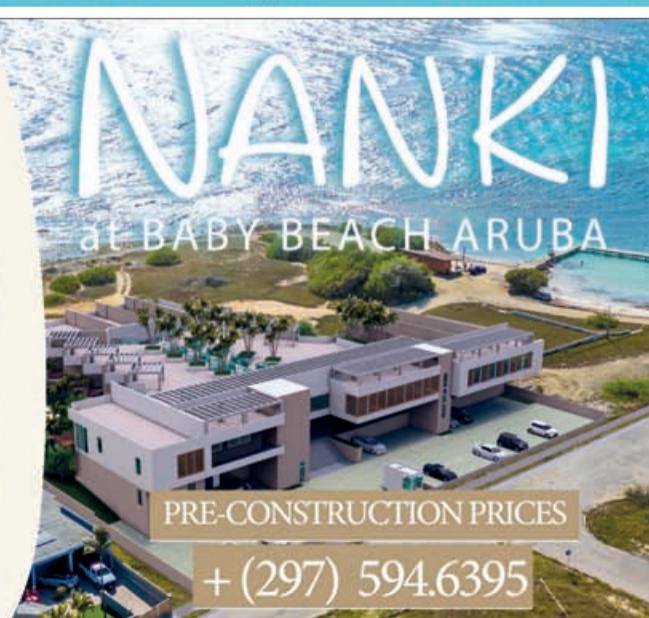
SATURDAY:  
EDDIE KROON  
SINGER  
4:00 - 6:00pm  
ANGELA FLORES  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

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# States sue President Trump's administration over mass firings of probationary federal workers

By BRIAN WITTE

Associated Press

**ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)** —

Maryland and 19 other states are suing multiple federal agencies, contending President Donald Trump's administration has illegally fired thousands of federal probationary workers.

Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown is leading the coalition of attorneys general in the federal lawsuit that was filed late Thursday in Maryland, where the state estimates about 10% of households receive wages from the federal government.

"The draconian actions of the Trump-Vance Administration could lead to tens of thousands of jobs lost, hundreds of thousands of lives disrupted, and the cratering of tens of millions of dollars in income here in Maryland," Gov. Wes Moore, a Democrat, said Friday in support of the complaint.

The mass firings will cause irreparable burdens and expenses on the states, the lawsuit said, because states will have to support recently unemployed workers and review and adjudicate



Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown speaks during a news conference Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, in Baltimore.

claims of unemployment assistance. More than 800 fired federal workers in Maryland already have applied for unemployment benefits, Brown's office said.

The lawsuit also contend- ed that the layoffs will hurt state finances due to lost tax revenue.

"President Trump's unlawful

mass firings of federal workers are a blatant attack on the civil service, throwing thousands of hardworking families into financial turmoil," Brown, a Democrat, said in a news release. "Instead of following the law and notifying states, his administration blindsided Maryland, forcing us to deal with the devastating

economic fallout and social consequences." Trump, a Republican, has said he's targeting fraud, waste and abuse in a bloated federal government. The president and his adviser Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency have fired both new and career workers, telling agency leaders to

Associated Press

plan for "large-scale reductions in force." The purge has spawned a number of lawsuits as unions and attorneys general have challenged Doge's authority. Attempts to contact the White House and Justice Department for comment were unsuccessful.

Probationary workers have been targeted for layoffs across the federal government because they're usually new to the job and lack full civil service protection. While federal agencies claimed the employees were fired for unsatisfactory performance or conduct, the lawsuit said the firings were part of the administration's attempt to restructure and downsize the entire government.

That means the administration was required to follow federal laws and regulations that govern large-scale federal reductions in force, the lawsuit said. For example, regulations require that government agencies consider an employee's tenure, performance and veteran status when making termination decisions, the attorneys said. □

## Federal judge to hear arguments over whether to block immigration arrests in U.S. schools

By COLLEEN SLEVIN

Associated Press

**DENVER (AP)** — A federal

judge is set to hear arguments Friday over whether he should block immigra-

tion agents from conducting arrests at schools under a Trump administration policy that has yet to be acted upon. Denver Public Schools is asking U.S. District

Judge Daniel Domenico to block immigration enforcement in schools across the country while its lawsuit challenging the new policy plays out in court.

The lawsuit says the possibility of routine immigration arrests in its schools has led to a drop in attendance. It also says the district has had to divert resources to respond to fear among students and families over the lifting of longtime rules restricting immigration enforcement near schools, churches and other sensitive locations.

"This includes providing mental health support to students, diverting administrator attention from academics to immigration issues, and assisting students

who miss school to catch up," lawyers for the school district said in their request to block the new policy.

The hearing comes just days after Denver Mayor Mike Johnston and the Democratic leaders of other cities were in Washington to answer questions from Republican members of Congress about their so-called sanctuary city policies that they see as undermining President Donald Trump's immigration and mass deportation efforts. The lawsuit was brought by the school district, not the city, though.

Under the previous "sensitive locations" guidance, officers were generally required to get approval for any enforcement opera-

tions at those locations, although exceptions were allowed for matters like national security. The policy change announced in January by the acting leader of the Department of Homeland Security, which includes Immigration and Customs Enforcement, emphasized that field agents should use "common sense" and "discretion" to conduct immigration enforcement operations without a supervisor's approval. The head of ICE later issued a directive that immigration arrests at sensitive places like schools had to be approved by supervisors, lawyers for Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said in a court filing. □



An American flag hangs in a classroom as students work on laptops, Aug. 25, 2020, in Denver.

Associated Press

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## Homeland Security ends TSA collective bargaining agreement, in effort to dismantle union protections

By REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Department of Homeland Security said Friday that it is ending the collective bargaining agreement with the tens of thousands of frontline employees at the Transportation Security Administration, marking a major effort to dismantle union protections under the Trump administration. The TSA union called it an “unprovoked attack” and vowed to fight it.

The department, in a statement announcing the termination, criticized the union whose staffers are responsible for keeping weapons off airplanes and protecting air travel. The department said that poor performers were being allowed to stay on the job and that the agreement was hindering the ability of the organization “to safeguard our transportation systems and keep Americans safe” an assessment that faced immediate pushback from a top Democrat in Congress and the union.

“This action will ensure Americans will have a more effective and modernized workforces across the nation’s transportation networks,” the agency said in a statement. “TSA is renewing its commitment to providing a quick and secure travel process for Americans.”

The American Federation of Government Employees is the union representing the TSA workers. The federation and the TSA’s then-administrator, David Pekoske, signed the collective bargaining agreement in May of last year. It came amid a push by Homeland Security to improve the pay



The Department of Homeland Security logo is seen during a news conference in Washington, Feb. 25, 2015.

Associated Press

for the frontline workers, whose pay has historically lagged behind that of other government employees. Pekoske has credited the pay increases, which went into effect in 2023, as helping to improve employee retention and morale, areas where TSA has had challenges.

The union said in a statement that the order would strip collective bargaining rights from roughly 47,000 transportation security officers, or TSOs.

Those are people responsible for staffing airports around the country and checking to make sure that hundreds of thousands of passengers a day do not carry any weapons or explosives into the secure areas of airports.

The union said Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and President Donald Trump’s administration were violating the right of

staffers to join a union. It also said that the reasons the Republican administration had given for the decision specifically the criticisms of union activity were “completely fabricated.” Instead, the union said, the decision was retaliation for its wider efforts challenging a range of decisions taken by the Trump administration that have affected federal workers. AFGE represents roughly 800,000 federal government workers in Washington, D.C., and across the country, and it has been pushing back on many of the administration’s actions such as firing probationary employees and cuts to the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID.

“Our union has been out in front challenging this administration’s unlawful actions targeting federal workers, both in the legal courts and in the court of

public opinion,” the union said. “Now our TSA officers are paying the price with this clearly retaliatory action.”

The decision to end the collective bargaining agreement comes after Trump’s administration pushed out Pekoske the day Trump was sworn into office. The TSA does not currently have an administrator or a deputy administrator.

In a note to staff, acting TSA Administrator Adam Stahl said Noem made the decision to rescind officers’ collective bargaining rights to align with the Trump administration’s “vision of maximizing government productivity and efficiency and ensuring that our workforce can respond swiftly and effectively to evolving threats.”

“By removing the constraints of collective bargaining, TSOs will be able to operate with greater flex-

ibility and responsiveness, ensuring the highest level of security and efficiency in protecting the American public,” Stahl wrote. “This determination is made with the TSO in mind, ensuring employee inclusivity and restoring meritocracy to the workforce.”

Stahl said the agency “will establish alternative procedures” to address employee concerns and grievances “in a fair and transparent manner.”

The end of the collective bargaining agreement was immediately slammed by the top Democrat on the Homeland Security committee in Congress, Rep. Bennie G. Thompson of Mississippi, who praised the work of TSA staffers in protecting air travel.

“Attempting to negate their legally binding collective bargaining agreement now makes zero sense it will only reduce morale and hamper the workforce,” Thompson said. “Since the Biden Administration provided pay increases and a new collective bargaining contract to the workforce, TSA’s attrition rates have plummeted.”

Thompson also criticized the Homeland Security press release, saying the department was using “flat out wrong anti-union talking points.” He said the real aim was “diminishing” the workforce so “they can transform it in the mold of Project 2025.”

Project 2025 was the conservative governing blueprint that Trump insisted during the 2024 campaign was not part of his agenda. Project 2025 calls for immediately ending the TSA union and eventually privatizing the entire agency. □

# Trump administration cancels \$400M in grants and contracts with Columbia University

By JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Trump administration said Friday that it's pulling \$400 million from Columbia University, canceling grants and contracts because of what the government describes as the Ivy League school's failure to squelch antisemitism on campus.

The notice came five days after federal agencies announced they were considering orders to stop work on \$51 million in contracts with the New York City university and reviewing its eligibility for over \$5 billion in federal grants going forward. And it came after Columbia set up a new disciplinary committee and ramped up its own investigations into students critical of Israel, alarming free speech advocates. But Columbia's efforts evidently didn't go far enough for the federal government. "Universities must comply with all federal antidiscrimination laws if they are going to receive federal funding. For too



Student protesters camp on the campus of Columbia University, Tuesday, April 30, 2024, in New York.

long, Columbia has abandoned that obligation to Jewish students studying on its campus," Education Secretary Linda McMahon said in a statement Friday. She later posted on X that she'd had "a productive meeting" with the university's interim president, Ka-

trina Armstrong, and anticipated "working together to protect all students."

Columbia vowed to work with the government to try to get the money back.

"We take Columbia's legal obligations seriously and understand how serious this announcement is and are

committed to combatting antisemitism and ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff," the university said in a statement. It is not clear which research, projects or activities will be affected at Columbia, which operates

Associated Press

But the \$400 million cut-off was welcome news to Columbia/Barnard Hillel, a Jewish student group. Executive Director Brian Cohen said he hoped it would be "a wake-up call to Columbia's administration and trustees to take antisemitism and the harassment of Jewish students and faculty seriously." □

## Judge deciding whether to let charges drop against NYC Mayor Eric Adams is about to get key advice

By LARRY NEUMEISTER and MICHAEL R. SISAK

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A former U.S. solicitor general who was brought in to help a federal judge decide whether to accept a Justice Department request

to drop corruption charges against New York City Mayor Eric Adams is set to submit written arguments Friday.

Judge Dale E. Ho in Manhattan appointed Paul Clement, who was solicitor general under Presi-

dent George W. Bush, two weeks ago to present arguments on the government's request.

Ho said the appointment was necessary so he could reach a decision "via an adversarial process" after Acting Deputy U.S. Attorney General Emil Bove defended the request at a hearing, saying they came too close to Adams' re-election campaign and would distract the mayor from assisting the Trump administration's law-and-order priorities.

Bove has said the charges could be reinstated after the election if the new permanent U.S. attorney decides it is appropriate.

Lawyers for Adams subsequently asked for the charges to be dismissed "with prejudice," meaning they could not be refiled.

The judge has not yet ruled on that request.

Adams was indicted in September and accused of accepting over \$100,000 in illegal campaign contributions and travel perks from a Turkish official and others seeking to buy influence while he was Brooklyn borough president. He has pleaded not guilty and insisted he is innocent.

Ho said he wanted all parties and Clement to address the legal standard for dismissing charges, whether a court may consider materials beyond the motion itself and under what circumstances additional procedural steps and further inquiry was necessary. He also said he wants to know when dismissal without the ability to reinstate charges is appropriate. After setting a Friday dead-



New York City Mayor Eric Adams attends an event at the NYPD's 40th precinct, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025, in the Bronx borough of New York.

Associated Press

## European leaders downplay skepticism from Trump about NATO solidarity

By SUMAN NAISHADHAM

Associated Press

**MADRID (AP)** — European Union leaders on Friday downplayed skepticism from U.S. President Donald Trump about solidarity among NATO members a day after they backed plans to spend more on defense amid wavering U.S. support.

After European leaders committed Thursday to freeing up hundreds of billions of euros for security, Trump said he was "not so sure" that the military alliance would come to the United States' defense if the country were attacked. "We are loyal and faithful allies," French President Emmanuel Macron said late Thursday in response, expressing "respect and friendship" toward U.S. leaders and adding that France was "entitled to expect the same."

Māris Riekstins, Latvia's ambassador to NATO, stressed the military alliance re-



Poland's President Andrzej Duda, left, and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte address a media conference at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Thursday, March 6, 2025.

Associated Press

mained the most important platform for addressing transatlantic security issues. He emphasized the commitment from his country which shares a nearly

300-kilometer (186-mile) border with Russia to defense spending.

The Baltic country last month said spending should be increased to

4% of GDP next year and move toward 5%.

Trump's repeated warnings that he would make European allies face the threat of Russia alone has spurred

countries that for decades faltered on defense spending to find ways to bolster their security and back Ukraine in its war against Russia.

On Thursday, EU leaders signed off on a move to loosen budget restrictions so that willing EU countries could increase their military spending. Following the emergency talks in Brussels, Trump again suggested that the U.S. could abandon its NATO commitments if member countries didn't meet the alliance's defense spending targets. He expressed doubt that other allies will come to the defense of the U.S. though they have done so after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, the only instance in which the Article 5 mutual defense guarantee was invoked.

The U.S. president has criticized the alliance for years, arguing that European members have not contributed enough toward their own security. □

## World Trade Organization chief says U.S. concerns on tariffs need to be heard

**GENEVA (AP)** — The World Trade Organization chief urged America's global trading partners on Friday to listen to U.S. concerns about tariffs and engage in dialogue with Washington rather than embrace tit-for-tat measures on tariffs.

WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said it's important for trade

partners not to panic but to embrace dialogue in reaction to President Donald Trump's threats in recent days to impose tariffs on close trade partners.

Trump's tariffs targeting Mexico, Canada and China launched trade wars and caused the U.S. stock market to plunge this week. They also triggered confu-

sion because Trump delayed some of the tariffs on Canada and Mexico soon after announcing them. Okonjo-Iweala said there was no cause for panic, preferring to describe the threats and reversals as "disruptions."

"I think we need to listen to the United States and listen to what their concerns are, and say, 'how can we also help them deal with their concerns,'" she said, speaking during a discussion alongside former German Chancellor Angela

Merkel at the WTO headquarters in Geneva.

"Thirty years ago, when this system was put in place, the U.S. bound its tariffs at a rate that was quite low, maybe around 2.5%, to benefit its population and the outside world. □



Former Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel delivers the WTO Presidential Lecture on Friday, March 7, 2025 at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Associated Press



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## Panama to allow 112 migrants deported from the U.S. to move about freely in the country

By ALMA SOLÍS and MEGAN JANETSKY  
Associated Press

**PANAMA CITY (AP)**—Panama announced Friday that it will allow 112 migrants deported from the United States who have been held in a remote camp in the Darien region since last month to move about the country freely until they decide on their next course of action.

The government cited humanitarian reasons for the decision but rights lawyers promptly expressed concerns that this could be a tactic to absolve the authorities of international scrutiny for their treatment of migrants while also putting them in more danger. Panama's Security Minister Frank Ábrego said the migrants from a number of mostly Asian nations would be granted temporary humanitarian passes as documents. They would find their own places to stay while they decide where they are going next, Ábrego said, without elaborating. The passes would last for an initial 30 days but could be renewed, he added.

"They have exactly 30 days to figure out how to leave Panama, because they refused ... to accept help from the (Inter-



Venezuelan migrants returning from southern Mexico after giving up on reaching the U.S. rest on the street in Panama City, Thursday, March 6, 2025.

Associated Press

national Organization for Migration) and (the U.N. Refugee Agency) and said that they wanted to do it themselves," Ábrego said, speaking to reporters outside a security conference Friday.

"Panama has decided to respect this," he also said. Panama has come under pressure from human rights groups for holding the migrants without their passports or cell phones in harsh conditions. Lawyers had petitioned the Inter-American

Commission on Human Rights on their behalf.

Most of the migrants had been moved to the camp in San Vicente on Feb. 19, from a hotel in Panama City where they had initially been held under police guard. Migrants who agreed to voluntarily return to their countries remained at the hotel and those who didn't were sent to the camp in the Darien.

Álvaro Botero, one of the lawyers who filed the petition, said his legal team was

concerned the humanitarian permits are a way for Panamanian authorities to wash their hands of the deportees, many who fear for their safety in their own countries.

"Many of these people have legitimate claims to seek and receive asylum," Botero's said. "The option of deporting them is not the protection that these people deserve."

While deportees were stripped of their phones by Panamanian authorities, a

handful of people, including one who has spoken with The Associated Press, have been able to communicate secretly with hidden phones.

Botero's team was informed by one of the migrants in the camp that they were given papers to sign for the 30-day permit. Signing the document apparently implied the migrants would accept the 30-day permit on the condition that they leave Panama after that period of time.

Botero's team asked the client not to sign the document because the lawyers were unable to look into the text.

He also warned the permits may be an attempt by authorities to influence the outcome of the human rights petition next week.

"They want to report, 'You know what, we already granted humanitarian permits to the people that were detained and they are no longer detained,'" he said.

The camp had originally been established for the hundreds of thousands of migrants crossing the treacherous Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama in recent years as they made their way toward the U.S. border. □

## Japan's refusal to recognize same-sex marriage in law is unconstitutional, a court finds



A supporter for the LGBTQ+ community holds up a poster reading "Legalize the same-sex marriage" as plaintiffs speak in front of media members by the main entrance of the Tokyo district court after hearing the ruling regarding LGBTQ+ marriage rights, in Tokyo, on March 14, 2024.

Associated Press

By MARI YAMAGUCHI  
Associated Press

**TOKYO (AP)** — A Japanese high court on Friday ruled that Japan's refusal to legally recognize same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, the latest victory for same-sex couples and their supporters seeking equal rights.

Friday's decision by the Nagoya High Court, in central Japan, marks the ninth victory out of 10 rulings since the first group of plaintiffs filed lawsuits in 2019. The decision was also the fourth high court ruling in a row to find the current government policy unconstitutional, after similar decisions in Tokyo, Fukuoka and Sapporo. After a fifth court ruling expected later this month in Osaka, the Supreme Court is expected to handle all five appeals and make a decision.

The Nagoya court said Friday that not allowing same-sex couples the legal right to marry violates a constitutional guarantee of equality. The court also upheld the right to individual dignity and the essential equality of both sexes.

The current civil law, which defines marriage as being between a man and a woman, is discrimination based on sexual orientation and lacks rationality, the ruling said.

The government has argued that marriage under civil law does not cover same-sex couples and places importance on natural reproduction. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters after the ruling Friday that the government will monitor pending lawsuits and public opinion. □

## The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

### How Nanzi fooled the king

One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.

“Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack. What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by?

“Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. “Let me see!” he said.

“Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.” The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

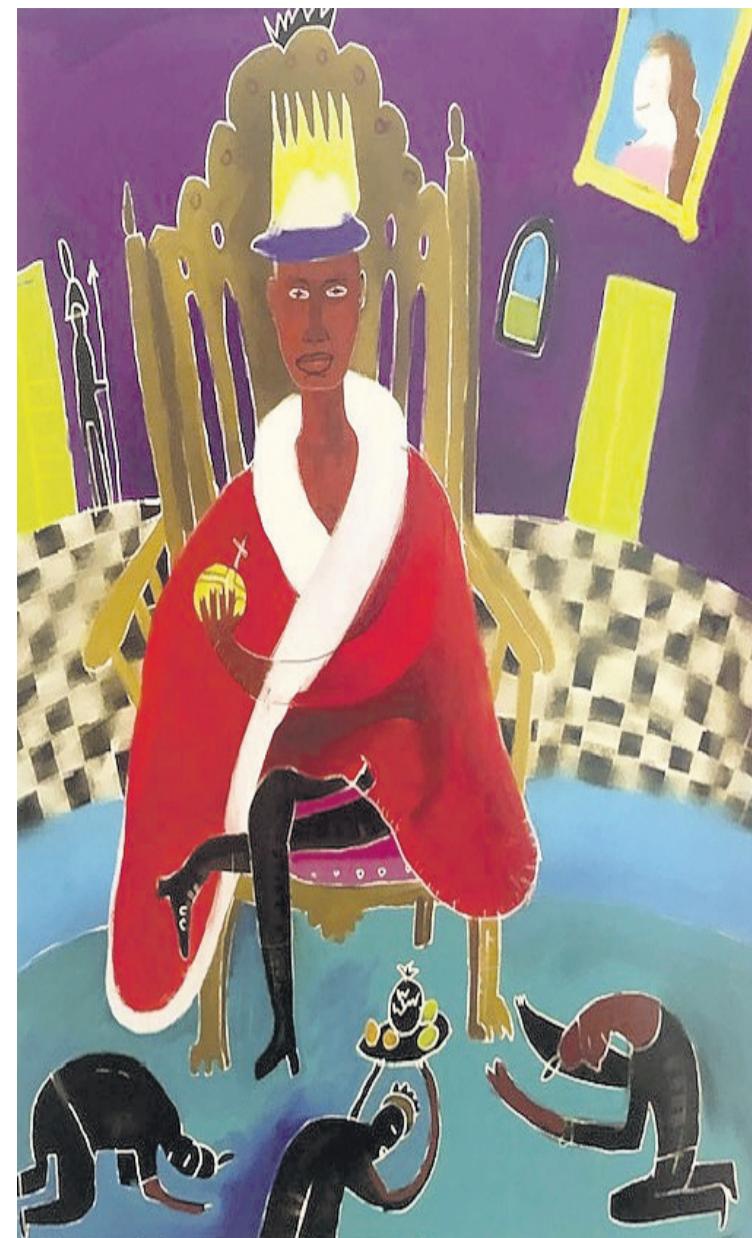
Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what, there is so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!”

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's thrown and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king.

**Story and pictures are from “Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)” by Nilda Pinto.**



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## Dining in? Try making a local favorite

### How to make “funchi hasa”

a quick and filling snack.

**Ingredients (measured by heart)**

1. Polenta flour\*
2. Water
3. Butter
4. Salt to taste

**Directions**

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.



When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce.

Note: We recommend the FUNCHI FRESKU polenta flour brand that is sold in all supermarkets on the island. You can also use yellow corn flour from the brand PAN.□

**Photo credit of fried funchi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest.**

(Oranjestad)—A night in can be just as fun as a night out on the town, especially if you got the right snacks to munch on. One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is “funchi hasa” (fried polenta sticks). A super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here’s how to make it!

**Before we start, get to know the basics**

So what is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for

## Birds of Aruba

**ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.**

Among other things, the



foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.

**The Great Egret**

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in

peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

**Canadian in the house**

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm. Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

**Cabochon**

In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory.

English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje). Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect. □

**Pictures: Aruba Birdlife Conservation.**

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 Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique  
 Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar



## Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

**(Oranjestad)**—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

### Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento. At least,

not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also... kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

### Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is

heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.
2. Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.
3. Bon noch. You guessed it, "bon noch" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "noch" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

### Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

### Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much". □



## Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By

submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Joe & Amelia McGarvey from New Jersey, USA.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is a vacation place to enjoy, with friends, all the events, tours and great restaurants that Aruba has to offer!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

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Your dream home in Aruba starts with a conversation!

**Did you know about...**

## Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

### Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired

by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also

encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

### Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit [aruba-travelguide.com](http://aruba-travelguide.com) for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □

Picture credits: [aruba-travelguide.com](http://aruba-travelguide.com)



bebouwde kom



end bebouwde kom



end priority



end speed limit



intersection priority



priority



speed limit



stop sign



triangle stop sign

# The Aruban Cunukero

## From past to present

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's culture consists of rich historical traditions that make up the Aruban identity and lifestyle. However, the life of the cunukero (farmer) is perhaps the most important aspect of our culture, in a sense representing to locals the true essence of the Aruban.

Historically, cunucus (farms) played a huge role in the early social and economic development of Aruba, and its relevance dates back to the early days of the colonization era. Upon being discovered by Spanish conquistadors in the late 15th century, Aruba was used primarily as a ranch, housing horses and cattle brought from Europe. During the Dutch colonization era where the West Indian Company (WIC) dominated the economic sphere on the island, using the land to set up cattle farms and ranches remained popular.

### **Anthropologist Sidney Mintz divided Caribbean farmers back in four categories:**

1. The "squatters", who were mostly comprised of illegal and poor colonists, runaway slaves and deserters who took advantage of the Spanish's weak supervision on Caribbean islands like Cuba and the DR;

2. Then you have "Early Yeomen", who were legal farmers who came to the



west under contract. Once their contract expired, they were given a plot of land for independent use;

3. Proto-Peasants were plantation slaves who were allowed to have a small piece of land to grow food for their own consumption. This was to curb the cost of living on the plantations;

4. Lastly you have the "Runaway Peasantries", usually comprised of runaway slaves who acquired farming tools and cattle through stealing or through secret exchanges with other slaves from different plantations.

However, the Aruban cunukeros back then are hard to place, and their history

may explain why.

From 1636 (beginning of Dutch colonization era) to before the oil industry in 1924, Aruba's population consisted of mostly farmers. These farmers were mostly indigenous and were characterized as peasants. They weren't allowed to participate in trading, but instead were granted a piece of land to live off of. However, in exchange for this grant, these indigenous farmers were obligated to work for the WIC, doing daily tasks such as taking care of or hunting cattle—large majority of which were destined for Curacao, clean water tanks and chop wood, among other things.

As much as these farmers were given an opportunity to live "free" with a plot of land, their exclusion from the trading and business world, as well as being deprived the chance to become real property and cattle owners, made them a unique group among Caribbean farmers at the time.

The WIC placed a lot of restrictions on these indigenous farmers—a method to safeguard their cattle deposit on the island. The indigenous farmers were mostly granted less than 7 acres of land. Those who owned bigger land were either once affiliated with the WIC or were colonists who settled on



not popular. The focus was mainly on cattle herding and taking care of livestock. However, livestock need food to survive, and when Aruba experienced its drier dry climate, many farmers would see a big loss in their livestock, and hence profit.

Although the WIC at one point did try to come up with an initiative to get more people to have land on the island, the climate never really allowed real profit from farming. Because of the climate, Aruban farmers in general could not keep large quantities of livestock. At a certain point toward the end of the 18th century, the climate got so bad that many farmers decided to leave the island for a while.

For this reason, the farming economy on the island remained small. As the years went by and people noticed that these farms could not really produce any sustainable profit, farmers kept their small piece of land just to live off of. This is why the Aruban cunukeros only played a very tiny role into the plantation economy.

In modern Aruba, cunucus and cunukeros still exist on the island, fortunately with more freedom and more opportunity to tap into the agricultural market. These farmers usually sell their produce on a smaller scale, like during farmers' market events and other types of (holiday) events.

**Source:** "Arubaans Akkoord: Opstellen over Aruba van voor de komst van de olieindustrie (Aruban Accord: Essays on Aru-



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E-mail: info@ana.aw | source: https://aruba.ana.aw/

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 40 Famous

1 Auction proviso  
5 Rocker setting  
10 Recap

12 In the know

13 Become narrower

14 Put off

15 Genesis name

16 Slalom maneuver

18 Bar bill

19 Edit

21 Tiara adorners

22 Some pitchers

24 Key

25 Wild parties

29 Do some modeling

30 Texas team

32 Auction buy

33 Cal. column

34 Grammys category

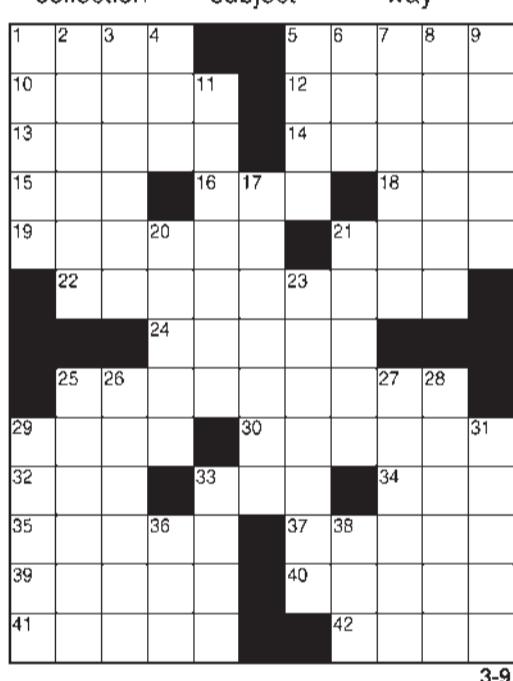
35 Corn-husker city

37 "Pal Joey" writer

39 Moon of Saturn



11 Exact	27 Book goofs
17 Out-standing	28 Flew high
20 Full of energy	29 Novel ideas
21 "Under-stand?"	31 Digging tool
23 Literary adap-tation	33 Stadium group
25 Dorm sharer	36 Deli meat
26 Will subject	38 In what way



3-9

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONG FELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-9

CRYPTOQUOTE

B G X Y X    G N D    M X A X Y    K X B

W X X M    N M    E M H M B X Y X D B H M R

SHZX. — ONYJ BUNHM  
Cryptoquote: LIFE'S MOST  
PERSISTENT AND URGENT QUESTION IS, WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING FOR OTHERS? — MARTIN  
LUTHER KING JR

## Cruise ship Schedule: March 1 - 8 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH
SAT	01	STAR PRIDE THE WORLD	06.00 09.00	18.00 ****	B C 1
SUN	02	AIDAPERLA THE WORLD - DEPT.	08.00 ****	18.00 23.00	B C -
MON	03	CELEBRITY BEYOND	09.00	21.00	I 1
TUE	04	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE EMERALD PRINCESS	08.00 09.00	21.00 23.00	B C 1
WED	05	MARELLA DISCOVERY AIDABELLA	08.00 10.00	20.00 22.00	B C 1
THU	06	CORAL PRINCESS	08.00	17.00	C 1
FRI	07	NORWEGIAN JEWEL	11.30	20.30	C 1
SAT	08	SEVEN SEAS GRANDEUR	10.00	23.00	C 1

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

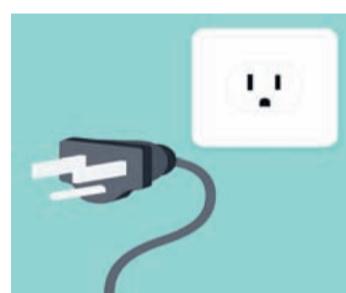
Supermarket hours



(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Drinking water



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

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Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



# Why are clocks set forward in the spring? Thank wars, confusion and a hunger for sunlight

By JAMIE STENGLE

Associated Press

**DALLAS (AP)**—Once again, most Americans will set their clocks forward by one hour this weekend, losing perhaps a bit of sleep but gaining more glorious sunlight in the evenings as the days warm into summer.

Where did this all come from, though?

How we came to move the clock forward in the spring, and then push it back in the fall, is a tale that spans over more than a century—one that's driven by two world wars, mass confusion at times and a human desire to bask in the sun for a long as possible.

There's been plenty of debate over the practice, but about 70 countries—about 40% of those across the globe currently use what Americans call daylight saving time.

While springing the clocks forward "kind of jolts our system," the extra daylight gets people outdoors, exercising and having fun, says Anne Buckle, web editor at [timeanddate.com](http://timeanddate.com), which features information on time, time zones and astronomy. "The really, really awesome advantage is the bright evenings, right?" she says. "It is actually having hours of daylight after you come home from work to spend time with your family or activities. And that is wonderful."



Custodian Ray Keen inspects a clock face before changing the time on the 100-year-old clock atop the Clay County Courthouse, March 8, 2014, in Clay Center, Kansas.

Associated Press

Here are some things to know so you'll be conversant about the practice of humans changing time: How did this all get started? In the 1890s, George Vernon Hudson, an astronomer and entomologist in New Zealand, proposed a time shift in the spring and fall to increase the daylight. And in the early 1900s, British home-builder William Willett, troubled that people weren't up enjoying the morning sunlight, made a similar push. But neither proposal gained enough traction to be implemented.

Germany began using

daylight saving time during World War I with the thought that it would save energy. Other countries, including the United States, soon followed suit. During World War II, the U.S. once again instituted what was dubbed "war time" nationwide, this time year-round. In the United States today, every state except Hawaii and Arizona observes daylight saving time. Around the world, Europe, much of Canada and part of Australia also implement it, while Russia and Asia don't currently.

Inconsistency and mass con-

fusion

After World War II, a patchwork of timekeeping emerged across the United States, with some areas keeping daylight saving time and others ditching it.

"You might have one town has daylight saving time, the neighboring town might have daylight saving time but start it and end it on different dates and the third neighboring town might not have it at all," says David Prerau, author of the book "Seize the Daylight: The Curious and Contentious Story of Daylight Saving Time."

At one point, if riders on a 35-

mile (56-kilometer) bus ride from Steubenville, Ohio, to Moundsville, West Virginia, wanted their watches to be accurate, they'd need to change them seven times as they dipped in and out of daylight saving time, Prerau says.

So in 1966, the U.S. Congress passed the Uniform Time Act, which say states can either implement daylight saving time or not, but it has to be statewide. The act also mandates the day that daylight saving time starts and ends across the country.

Confusion over the time change isn't just something from the past. In the nation of Lebanon last spring, chaos ensued when the government announced a last-minute decision to delay the start of daylight saving time by a month until the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Some institutions made the change and others refused as citizens tried to piece together their schedules. Within days, the decision was reversed.

"It really turned into a huge mess where nobody knew what time it was," Buckle says.

What would it be like if we didn't change the clocks? Changing the clocks twice a year leads to a lot of grumbling, and pushes to either use standard time all year, or stick to daylight saving time all year often crop up. □



In this June 24, 2016 file photo the logo of German industrial conglomerate Siemens is pictured prior to the opening ceremony at the new headquarters in Munich, Germany.

Associated Press

By SARAH PARVINI  
AP Technology Writer  
**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Siemens plans to invest \$285 million in manufacturing in

the United States, the tech company said Thursday, including two new facilities in California and Texas. The U.S. is the largest market

## Siemens announces \$285 million investment in U.S. manufacturing

for the company. The recent investments in the Siemens' U.S. manufacturing footprint and the planned acquisition of Altair, a Michigan-based software company, mark more than \$10 billion in investment in the U.S. "We believe in the innovation and strength of America's industry. That's why Siemens has invested over \$90 billion in the country in the last 20 years. This year's investment will bring this number to over \$100 billion," Roland Busch, president and CEO of Sie-

mens AG, said in a statement. "We are bringing more jobs, more technology and a boost to America's AI capabilities."

Siemens' announcement comes as chip giant Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. said it plans to invest an additional \$100 billion in the U.S., on top of \$65 billion in investments the company had previously said it would make. That investment will be for three more chip manufacturing plants, along with two pack-

aging facilities, in Arizona. Siemens said it plans to open two manufacturing facilities for electrical products in Fort Worth, Texas, and Pomona, Calif. The company said it expects its latest investment to create more than 900 skilled manufacturing jobs, with the equipment produced in those factories supporting the U.S. commercial, industrial and construction sectors. The move will also allow the company to power AI data centers. □

# Avalanche acquire Brock Nelson from the Islanders on the eve of the NHL trade deadline

By STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Hockey Writer

The Colorado Avalanche made a big splash on the eve of the NHL trade deadline late Thursday night by getting center Brock Nelson from the New York Islanders. The move came hours after the Western Conference rival Vegas Golden Knights reacquired winger Reilly Smith in a deal with the New York Rangers. Much of the action came in the East, where New Jersey added on defense with Brian Dumoulin in a deal with Anaheim, Florida got depth center Nico Sturm from San Jose, and the Rangers also bought by acquiring Carson Soucy from Vancouver.

Colorado sent defenseman Oliver Kylington, prospect Calum Ritchie, a 2026 first-round pick and a conditional third-rounder in 2028 to the Islanders for Nelson and 23-year-old winger William Dufour. Nelson, a pending unrestricted free agent, was considered one of the top players available. The Islanders almost immediately traded Kylington to Anaheim for future considerations. The Devils' acquisition of Dumoulin, sending a second-round pick in this year's draft and the rights to unsigned 19-year-old prospect Herman Traff to the Ducks, comes after they learned leading scorer Jack Hughes is done for the season after



Vegas Golden Knights right wing Reilly Smith skates with the Stanley Cup after the Knights defeated the Florida Panthers in Game 5 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals, June 13, 2023, in Las Vegas. Associated Press

undergoing shoulder surgery and with No. 1 defenseman Dougie Hamilton also out because of injury. With Hughes going on long-term injured reserve, they can add roughly \$10 million worth of players before the deadline, even after getting Dumoulin because Anaheim is retaining half of Dumoulin's salary. The Rangers are also retaining half of what's left of Smith's salary and getting young forward Brendan Brisson and a 2025 third-round pick previously belonging to last-place San Jose back from Vegas. Hours later, they sent that pick to Vancouver

for Carson Soucy, a left-shooting defenseman under contract through next season who effectively replaces Ryan Lindgren after he was sent to Colorado.

Another player who fell out of favor with the Rangers, Smith has been traded to Pittsburgh, to New York and back to Vegas since helping the Golden Knights win the Cup in 2023 as an alternate captain and original member of the expansion franchise. The Panthers, who lost in that final before winning their first title last year, sent a 2026 fourth-rounder to the Sharks for a seventh

in '27 and Sturm, a capable 29-year-old penalty killer who has seven goals and six assists and won 62.7% of his faceoffs in 47 games this season. That is the highest total of anyone who has taken part in at least 200 faceoffs, and San Jose rookie-of-the-year candidate Macklin Celebreni said the Panthers are getting "someone that will do all the little things."

"(He) makes sure all the small stuff is taken care of, like penalty kill, you name it, just faceoffs, his defensive game all that stuff," Celebreni said. "It's not stuff you get recognized for, but

it's something that will definitely help them." In a pre-midnight move preceding the Avalanche adding Nelson, Minnesota got 6-foot-5 winger Justin Brazeau from Boston for younger forwards Marat Khusnutdinov and Jakub Lauko, plus a 2026 sixth-round pick.

In another late-night deal, Edmonton acquired defenseman Jake Walman from San Jose for the Oilers' conditional 2026 first-round pick and forward Carl Berglund. With top winger Matthew Tkachuk on LTIR like Hughes, Florida which already traded for defenseman Seth Jones from Chicago and added backup goaltender Vitek Vanecek still has space to potentially add another forward in the aim of becoming the third series of back-to-back champs over the past decade. Thursday also brought a depth goalie swap, getting Kaapo Kahkonen from the Winnipeg Jets for Chris Driedger. The Devils are contenders again and looking to get back in after falling out of the race last season, and they hope Dumoulin, 33, brings some valuable experience with him from his 789 regular-season and playoff games. He won the Cup with Pittsburgh in 2016 and '17 and this season has 16 points while skating just under 20 minutes on average over 61 games with Anaheim. □

## MLB players' union, Bad Bunny agency agree to dismiss lawsuit over discipline

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Bad Bunny's sports representation firm and the Major League Baseball Players Association filed an agreement Thursday to dismiss the union's lawsuit over penalties imposed for making improper inducements.

The sides submitted a stipulation telling U.S. District Judge Jennifer H. Rearden in Manhattan they had settled the matter.

The MLBPA disciplined Rimas Sports, the agency co-owned by Puerto Rican musical artist Bad Bunny, last April over violations of its agent regulations. It revoked the agent certification of Rimas' William Arroyo and denied certifications of

executives Noah Assad and Jonathan Miranda, citing citing a \$200,000 interest-free loan and a \$19,500 gift. The union issued a \$400,000 fine for misconduct.

Arbitrator Ruth M. Moscovitch last October upheld the union's five-year suspensions of Assad and Miranda and cut Arroyo's suspension to three years. The union filed a petition to confirm the 80-page decision in New York Supreme Court, and the case was shifted to federal court. Representatives of the union and Rimas did not immediately respond to requests for comment. □



Bad Bunny attends "SNL50: The Anniversary Special" at Rockefeller Plaza on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025, in New York. Associated Press

# Shaun White kicks off new league with visions of snowboarding riches on the halfpipe

By EDDIE PELLS

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**ASPEN, Colo. (AP)** — Shaun White's next trick might carry more risk than the flips and twists he pulled off for decades inside all those halfpipes he used to dominate. This time, it's about making magic and money for the generation of snowboarders who looked up to him for all those years.

This week in Aspen marks the debut of The Snow League a \$1.6 million, four-stop halfpipe tour dreamed up by White and backed by deep-pocketed sports investors.

If successful, it will bring order to snowboarding's otherwise confusing competition schedule and usher in a new age for a sport that, for generations, held a wary view of riding for medals and money.

"I want to make it so you can have a decent season on the tour and make a great living, that's the goal," said White, expressing what seems obvious for almost any pro sport but hasn't always been so clear-cut in the world of halfpipe.

"I'd like to see a pathway," he said. "In traditional sports, it's like, you start as an amateur, then you play high school, and then go to college and get into the pros. For this, I want the same."

The world's most famous rider takes on a new role. White kicked off action Friday with an exhibition run through the halfpipe. His last official trip is now more than three years in the rearview mirror, when he capped off his fifth Olympics with an emotional farewell at the 2022 Beijing Games.

With the next Winter Olympics less than a year away, the first time since 2002 they won't include the sport's biggest star, it's clear the 38-year-old's three gold medals don't fully speak to the impact he's had on snowboarding, both on and off the mountain.

His appearance on the cover of Rolling Stone in



Shaun White, founder of The Snow League, takes a lap before the qualifying round at The Snow League snowboarding competition Friday, March 7, 2025, in Aspen, Colo.

Associated Press

2006 was the opening salvo on a mission to portray snowboarders as more than stoner kids in baggy pants taking over resorts.

"It was giving attention to the sport and making it feel more professional," White said. "Like, every time I showed up on a talk show, I'm in a suit. I'm trying to carry a professionalism that would hopefully resonate within the sport."

Being the best has little to do with being a 'world champion.'

Not everyone went along for that ride.

A moment that stuck with White and in a way led to what went down Friday on a sun-splashed halfpipe dug into the same mountain as the Winter X Games he once dominated came when he was 16.

"I had an undefeated season halfpipe, slopestyle, rail jam, big air, everything," he said. "I got to the end of the season and an interviewer said 'Great season, but how does it feel to not be the world champion?' I wasn't upset, but it was a clear picture of how disconnected all the events are."

Aside from the Olympics turning into the sport's centerpiece, not much else changed in the ensuing 22

years. Great riders span the globe, but rarely convene at the same time. There are crystal globes awarded for the best snowboarders over a World Cup season, but that circuit has never been considered the most prestigious in an ecosystem filled with the Dew Tour, X Games, Burton U.S. Open and other stops.

White's league is trying to solve one problem, by linking with other circuits to offer qualifying points for the Olympics a move that gives riders incentive to participate.

The other is the \$1.6 million prize pool for Season One "a starting point," White calls it.

The Snow League will pay out \$50,000 first prizes for both men and women, along with a \$50,000 prize for the champion of the four-event series that, in its inaugural run, will spread over 13 months, ending in March 2026.

More notable might be the \$5,000 appearance fees for every athlete, along with a guaranteed \$2,500 minimum win for the eight riders who make the final. By comparison, eighth place at a World Cup event in Switzerland last month was worth about \$800.

"We put a lot of time and effort and obviously, we're all professional athletes," said Maddie Mastro, the best American rider this side of Chloe Kim and among the favorites in Saturday's final. "It's not as casual as some might think. We're working our butts off to make this our career, make this our life, and it's nice to have more support and feel valued."

White's model puts new spin on 'progression' in the halfpipe.

The word "progression" infiltrates snowboarding's world of flips and spins on a daily basis.

The ethos of pushing the envelope might be best encapsulated by Ayumu Hirano, the 26-year-old Japanese superstar whose "triple cork" three head-over-heels flips won the Beijing Olympics and redefined what was possible on a halfpipe.

Among White's biggest coups as he put together his league was to get Hirano to sign on. The Snow League will add halfpipe skiing at its next event, in China in December, and if White can close a deal to bring Olympic champion Eileen Gu onto that circuit,

he'll have arguably the biggest star in action sports.

"The fact it's run by Shaun would generate huge interest in his events," Hirano said. "And because of this, many snowboarders will improve their performances and encourage more young athletes in the future."

Hirano also gave a nod to a new competition template White is introducing with the goal of rethinking a judged sport that is difficult for non-experts to understand.

In the finals, riders will be placed into brackets for four rounds of one-on-one showdowns. Each round will be best of three, and riders must enter the halfpipe from opposite sides for the first two rounds. (It's harder to recognize on a snowboard, but it's the equivalent of skiing in forward for one run and backward on the next.)

The format lends a new element of strategy to the proceedings what do you do if your opponent goes first and lands a killer run? and forces riders, who often spend a season perfecting their two or three most comfortable routines, to imagine new ways of heading down the halfpipe.

"I wouldn't view it as a stresser, but it's definitely something different," Mastro said. "It probably will be a challenge tomorrow."

A trip out of the comfort zone for White and the rest of snowboarding

White has spent a career trying to lift both himself and his sport out of their comfort zones.

Though he is no stranger to business he's had apparel lines and even another snowboarding/music tour, Air & Style this one holds extra weight. White is putting his name behind a concept that could change the sport or, if things don't go well, fade into obscurity and leave snowboarding fractured.

As with every risk he's taken on the halfpipe, White knows there's no going in halfway when making a move that feels like all-or-nothing. □